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HF Happenings

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
 Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iaru.org www.iaru-r1.org

April
2014

What happened to HF Happenings?

I am sure you have noticed that for the past two weeks no HF Happenings has arrived in your in-box. No, it has not stopped publication! The editor has been busy with IARU Region 1 matters.

In September 2014, IARU Region 1 will be holding its tri-annual General Conference in Albena, 30 km north of Varna, Bulgaria. Albena is a resort on the Black Sea. And I had to get the Conference papers (103 of them) ready for approval by the Region 1 Executive Committee and then distribution to the Member Societies.

Then I flew to Sofia in Bulgaria and by car to Varna-Albena to inspect the Hotel and Conference facilities for the General Conference. Back to Sofia, then on to Ponta Delgada in the Azores via Frankfurt. The Executive Committee met in Ponta Delgada for its annual meeting, hosted by the Tourism Board of the Azores. And I had a chance to operate as CT8/ZS4BS from the CR2X contest station.

And now back to HF Happenings.

Young amateurs take up the RaDAR challenge

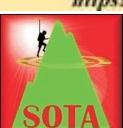
On 19 April, Andries, ZS6VL, Cliriska, ZU6BV, and Angelo, ZU6M, completed an 11 km hiking trail near Heidelberg, Gauteng and of course some HF equipment was also part of the package!

A station was set up en-route and 40 m contacts were made with many stations. As far as we know, this is the first time that a RaDAR (Rapid Deployment Amateur Radio) station was activated by young South African radio amateurs. For more info about RaDAR, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Edleighton/Rapid_Deployment_Amateur_Radio

Have **YOU** done anything today to Promote Amateur Radio?

May

- 1 - Worker's Day
- 2 - School holiday
- 4 - ZS3 Sprint
- 10 and 11 - AWA AM and SSB Contest
- 11 - Mother's Day
- 15 - May RAE
- 16 to 18 - Dayton Hamvention
- 24 - SA AMSAT Symposium
- 24 and 25 - CQ WPX CW Contest
- 25 - SARL Digital Contest
- 29 - Ascension Day



Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at www.sotawatch.org
 And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk and www.zs4bfn.co.za/sota.asp

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Marion Island

Gerard, ZS1KX, left South Africa on 2 April, destination Marion Island (AF-021). He expects to be active as ZS8KX around May for about one year. QSL to Gerard de Jong, PO Box 744, Wellington, 7654, South Africa (his wife will be his QSL manager).

African DX

Liberia, EL. Dickson, EL2DT has been active on 20 meters using CW around 19:30 to 21:15 UTC. QSL via operator's instructions.



5X, Uganda. Hans, OZ2HC, is active as 5X1S using SSB on HF. The length of his stay is unknown so far. QSL via home call, LoTW and eQSL. For more information visit http://dxing.at-communication.com/en/5x1s_uganda/

7Q, Malawi. Karl, DK2WV, and Heino, DJ9AF, will pay a visit to the Culture and Museum Centre Karonga from 7 to 21 May and work as 7Q7VW on 160 to 6 m. QSL via DK2WV, MDXC QSL-Service, LoTW and eQSL. Visit <http://www.mdxc.org/7q7vw/malawi/>, <http://www.mdxc.org/qsl-service/> and <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Radio-Dinosaur-FM-910-Karonga-Community-Radio-Station/167655470111269>

TY, Benin. Patrice, LA0HF, is now active as TY2BP from Ouidah. He is active on 20 to 6 m SSB, QSL via IK2IQD, direct only.

African Islands

ZD8, Ascension Island. Steve, G3ZVW, continues to operate as ZD8N from Georgetown on Ascension (AF-003, WLOTA 1491) until 13 May. He is active on HF with dipoles, vertical antennas and a delta loop. QSL via home call.



EA8, Canary Islands, AF-004. Mike, DG5LAC, will be active as EA8/DG5LAC from Fuerteventura (DIE S-006, WLOTA 0883, WWFF EAFF-191) between 11 and 23 May. He will be active on 80 to 10 m on SSB. QSL via home call, LoTW, eQSL and WWFF-Logsearch.

Word to the Wise

Fuses. His reply when Gerald, K5GW, was asked what critical spare part is often forgotten on DXpeditions, "Fuses, more fuses." That might apply to the ham shack, too. I often tape a replacement fuse to an equipment enclosure or attach a plastic bag with replacements to a power distribution strip.

Error rates for CQ WW SSB 2013

CQ World Wide Director, Randy K5ZD reports "There is a new blog entry <http://cqww.com/blog/?p=283> on the CQ WW website that provides some additional information on error rates for CQ WW SSB 2013. The average error rate for all logs was 3.60%." Randy notes that "Percentages can be misleading. A station that makes 10 QSOs and has one error will have an Error Rate of 10%. There is no reason for anyone to feel bad at making a few errors in all the QRM of CQ WW SSB!"

Operating Tip

From K9JY's 30 Ham Radio Contesting Tips <http://k9jy.com/blog/2007/10/10/30-days-30-ham-radio-contesting-tips> comes a good idea - if you are going to make a big effort in a contest, spend time in front of the radio one solar rotation before. The Sun rotates every 27 days and conditions are likely to be similar, although new sunspots can appear. There are lots of contests for you to use as for evaluating and estimating conditions. This weekend's events might be a good look ahead for the CQ WPX CW Contest on Memorial Day weekend.

ICASA awards long term 5 MHz license to the SARL

Almost a year ago the South African Radio League obtained a license from ICASA to do propagation search on 5 250 and 5 260 kHz to support the World Radio Conference (WRC-15) agenda item 1.4 which will consider a possible new allocation to the amateur service on a secondary basis within the band 5 250 - 5 450 kHz. To support the agenda item propagation conditions, frequency sharing studies on the impact to other services currently allocated in the band and in the adjacent bands will need to be carried out. Last year the South African Radio League submitted a proposal to the Council of ICASA for the sponsorship of long term license. The Council granted the license to the South African Radio League last week. The South African Radio League received the official license this week which is valid to 31 October 2015.

The Council of the South African Radio League expressed its appreciation for the support from ICASA.

In association with the Kempton Park Amateur Radio Technical Society (KARTS) some early results of the WSPR experiment have been released. Read more about 5 MHz on www.sarl.org.za, select propresearch from the home page.

5 MHz Activity Weekend

The dates of the 5 MHz weekend have been finalised as 17 and 18 May. The event will be held on the two days from 13:00 to 20:00 CAT (11:00 - 18:00 UTC). This is a South African Radio League only event as radio amateurs have to register with the South African Radio League to be allowed to operate on the two frequencies. Some attractive book prizes and a free 2014/2015 SARL membership will be awarded in a lucky draw of all participants who send in logs.

The activity is devised into two segments, a serious segment for the first 30 minutes of the hour which comprises of listening to and logging the beacon signals on 5 250 kHz using WSPR, PSK31 and CW and during the second half hour a fun component making as many contacts as possible on 5 260 kHz.

Participation requires reception reports on the KART 5250 kHz beacon which will support WSPR, PSK31 and CW modes. The Propresearch web page features a tutorial on how to get started on WSPR and links to other interesting articles, including an article which appeared on the EngineerIT website and will feature in the May edition.

Full details of the activity weekend and the tutorial on how to get started on WSPR are available on www.sarl.org.za, select the propagation research button on the left side of the home page or send an email to propressearch@sarl.org.za and the details will be mailed to you.

National Hamnet Exercise with a Competitive Feel

Hamnet Western Cape will be hosting a national Hamnet exercise this winter. As before, there is a competitive feel to the exercise, but primarily it is an exercise and not a contest. Our aims are to test our readiness for both fixed stations and field deployments, practice our emcomm voice procedures and practice accurate message passing.

The exercise will run for 24 hours from 12:00 CAT Saturday 7 June to 12:00 CAT Sunday 8 June.

Teams of between one and four members may enter and must provide a list of their members, a tactical name for their team for example a typical deployment location name and the co-ordinates they will be based at, to the exercise co-ordinator in advance of the exercise. The leader of the team and at least half the team members must be Hamnet members. Only teams that have entered and have been approved may participate in the exercise. Closing date to register your team is 30 April 2014 and your list of team members must be finalised two weeks before the exercise.

If you participated last year, you are encouraged to pick a different location to add some variety and new challenges. Teams entering earlier are more likely to get their chosen locations. Teams entering later, which are too close to other teams already entered, will be asked to move further away. The exercise co-



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ordinators, Ashley, ZS1ASH, and Grant, ZS1GS, will have the final say on whether your location is approved for the exercise.

The rules and guidelines will be distributed in due course. Information about the other participating teams and the details of messages to be passed between teams will be sent out two to three days before the exercise.

Team entries must be sent to Ashley, ZS1ASH before 9 May 2014. The e-mails addresses are Ashley.Warelane@capetown.gov.za or Grant, ZS1GS grant@sao.ac.za.

Results of the 2013 CQ WW DX Contests

Number groups after call letters denote following:
Band (A = all), Final Score, Number of QSOs, Zones,
and Countries. An asterisk (*) before a call indicates
low power. An 'A' after the band indicates Assisted
category.

CQ WW DX Phone Contest

GW Wessels, ZS1VV, A, 103 518, 236, 53, 109
Roger Jones, ZS6RJ, 28, 11 041, 70, 18, 43
Barney Fourie, ZS6TQ, 21, 456 672, 1 198, 33, 101
Gary Potgieter, ZS5NK 21, 16 776, 96, 22, 50,
* Sam Maree, ZS5SAM, A, 180 360, 476, 43, 92
* Paul Johnson, ZS1S, A, 139 876, 270, 56, 131
* Dennis Green, ZS4BS A, 8 008, 70, 16, 28
* Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC, A, 5 202, 44, 21, 30
* Barry Nugent, ZS2NF, 28, 137 400, 466, 27, 73
* Janusz Danilowicz, ZS1BHQ, 28, 8 330, 64, 16, 33
* Geoff Levey, ZS6GRL, 28A, 11 470, 75, 20, 42

CQ WW DX CW Contest

Vidi la Grange, ZS1EL, 28, 452 742, 1 291, 28, 94
Bernie vna der Walt, ZS4TX, 21, 554 112, 1 279, 37, 111
* Johan van Aarde, ZS6JM, A, 1 027 870, 1 563, 63, 167
* Barry Nugent, ZS2NF, A, 572 400, 822, 77, 163
* Jacques le Roux, ZS1JY, A, 61 752, 181, 50, 74
* Joop Hesp, ZS6C, A, 33 400, 146, 34, 66
* Janusz Danilowicz, ZS1BHQ, A, 1 428, 24, 15, 19
Barney Fourie, ZS6TQ, 28A, 570 825, 1 579, 30, 99
* Geoff Levey, ZS6GRL, AA, 20 916, 98, 33, 50
* Karel Bezuidenhout, ZR9C, 28A, 517 914, 1 273, 34, 104 (Op ZS6WN)



Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 5 to 12 May 2014

NCCC RTTY Sprint

02:00 - 02:30 UTC 9 May

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x
total mults

Submit logs by: 11 May 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

NCCC Sprint Ladder

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 9 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA
station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6)
once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each
North American country (except W/VE) once per
band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x
total mults

Submit logs by: 11 May 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

VK/Trans-Tasman 80 m Phone Contest

08:00 - 14:00 UTC 10 May

Mode: Phone

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op; Single Op QRP; Single Op Founda-
tion; Open

Max power: non-QRP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Serial no

Work stations: Once per hour

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 7 June 2014

E-mail logs to: vktasman@hotmail.com

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/transtasman/>

CQ-M International DX Contest

12:00 UTC 10 May to 11:59 UTC 11 May

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op Single Band - CW, SSB or mixed;
Single Op All Band - CW, SSB or mixed- low or high;
Single Op All Band QRP; Multi-Single; SWL; World
War II Veteran

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5
watts

Exchange: RS(T) and serial no

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each RS-150-S country once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x
total mults

Submit logs by: 11 June 2014

E-mail logs to: cq-m@cq-m.ru

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cq-m.ru/en/rules.html>

HPC World Wide DX Contest

12:00 UTC 10 May to 11:59 UTC 11 May

Mode: BPSK63

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op; SWL

Max power: HP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: HPC Members: RST and 3-digit HPC mem-
ber number; non-HPC: RST and 3-digit QSO no
QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each HPC member once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x
total mults

Submit logs by: 31 May 2014

E-mail logs to: contest2013@pskclub.gr

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://pskclub.gr/contest>

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon

12:00 UTC 10 May to 24:00 UTC 11 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: (none)

Max operating hours: 24

Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and
SKCC no or "NONE"

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Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 18 May 2014

Post log summary at:

<http://wes.m0trn.com/submission.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/

VOLTA WW RTTY Contest

12:00 UTC 10 May to 12:00 UTC 11 May

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band; Single Op Single Band;

Multi-Op; SWL

Exchange: RST, QSO no and CQ Zone

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: See rules

Multipliers: Each country and VK / VE / JA / ZL / W call area (see rules) once per band; Each country on a different continent worked on at least 4 bands once (extra mult)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x total QSOs

Submit logs by: 31 May 2014

E-mail logs to: log2014@contestvolta.it

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.contestvolta.com/48rules.pdf>

Portuguese Navy Day Contest

15:00 UTC 10 May to 15:00 UTC 11 May

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op

Exchange: NRA Club: Member no and CQ Zone; non-member: QSO no and CQ Zone

Work stations: Once per band per mode per 60 minutes

QSO Points: See rules

Multipliers: Each country once per band per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 May 2014

E-mail logs to: nra@nra.pt

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.nra.pt/portuguese-navy-day>

[-contest---2014.html](#)

FISTS Spring Sprint

17:00 - 21:00 UTC 10 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: QRP; QRO; Club

Max power: QRO: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and FISTS no; non-FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with FIST member; FIST members: 2 points per QSO with non-FIST member

Multipliers: Each US state and VE province once; Each DXCC country once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 9 June 2014

E-mail logs to: n2ed@fistsna.org

Mail logs to: FISTS Sprint Log, c/o Ed Wlodarski N2ED, 3 Shore Rd., Andover, NJ 07821-2240, USA

Find rules at:

<http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints>

Nevada Mustang Roundup

17:00 UTC 10 May to 17:00 UTC 11 May

Mode: CW, SSB, Digital

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: Single Op Fixed - high, low or QRP; Multi-Op Fixed - high, low or QRP; Single Op Expedition/Rover; Multi-Op Expedition/Rover

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: NV: RS(T) and county; non-NV: RS(T) and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 2 points per phone QSO; 3 points per CW/digital QSO

Multipliers: NV Stations: Each state, province, country once; non-NV Stations: Each NV county once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 15 June 2014

E-mail logs to: logs@nvqsoparty.info

Mail logs to: Nevada QSO Party, 2420 Palora Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89121-2157, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.nvqsoparty.info/nevada-mustang-round-up.html>

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Next Weeks Contests

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 14 May
Slobozhansky Sprint Contest 18:00 - 19:59 UTC (SSB), 20:00 - 21:59 UTC 16 May (CW)
UN DX Contest 21:00 UTC 16 May to 21:00 UTC 17 May
Portuguese Navy Day Contest, Digital 08:00 - 23:59 UTC 17 May
EU PSK DX Contest 12:00 UTC 17 May to 12:00 UTC 18 May
Aegean RTTY Contest 12:00 UTC 17 May to 12:00 UTC 18 May
His Majesty, the King of Spain CW Contest, 12:00 UTC 17 May to 12:00 UTC 18 May
Feld Hell Sprint 16:00 - 18:00 UTC 17 May
Baltic Contest 21:00 UTC 17 May to 02:00 UTC 18 May
UA2 QSO Party 13:00 - 16:59 UTC 18 May
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 19 May

A2, Botswana. Gert, ZS6AYU plans holiday-style activity as A25GF from Botswana (WW Loc KH22NE or KH22OD) between 16 and 18 May 2014. From 19 to 23 May, Gert will be active as Z21GF from near Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (WW Loc. KH22VB). he will be active on 40 to 10 metres CW with 100 W and an AVQ640 vertical. The dates are tentative and depend on availability of accommodation. Possibly 6 m. QSL both calls via ZS6AYU, Bureau or direct (Gerard Roux, PO Box 34393, Erasmia, 0023, South Africa).

EA8, Canary Islands. Juan, EA8RM, will be active once again from the local Radio Club EA8URL, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (AF-004, DIE S-005, WLOTA 0969), using the call sign EF8U for the CQ WW WPX CW Contest (24 and 25 May). He plans a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry from CQ zone 33. QSL via EA8URL, Bureau preferred.



The Club House of the Associação de Radioamadores dos Açores in Ponta Delgado, the Azores.

History this Week, week starting 5 May 14

- 868 - The first known dated printed book was the Diamond Sutra, a Buddhist scripture
- 1660 - Isaack B Fubine of Savoy, in The Hague, patents macaroni
- 1752 - Benjamin Franklin first tests the lightning rod
- 1840 - The adhesive postage stamp was first sold in Great Britain. The "penny black" and "two penny blue" stamps
- 1851 - Dr John Gorrie patents a "refrigeration machine"
- 1888 - George Eastman patents "Kodak box camera"
- 1896 - First horseless carriage show in London (featured 10 models)
- 1899 - Lawn mower patented
- 1928 - General Electric opens first TV-station (Schenectady NY)
- 1937 - The Hindenburg burned while landing at the naval air station at Lakehurst, NJ
- 1979 - Radio Shack releases TRSDOS 2.3 computer
- 2000 - Conjunction of Sun, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn & Moon

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC News